



## *American Association of Law Libraries*

MAXIMIZING THE POWER OF THE LAW LIBRARY COMMUNITY SINCE 1906

### S.B. 418

March 19, 2012

Senator Eric D. Coleman  
Co-Chair, Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building Room 2500  
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative Gerald M. Fox  
Co-Chair, Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building Room 2502  
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator John A. Kissel  
Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building Room 3400  
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative John Hetherington  
Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building Room 4200  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairman Coleman, Chairman Fox, Ranking Member Kissel and Ranking Member Hetherington:

On behalf of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Raised Bill No. 418, *An Act Adopting the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act and the Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act*. AALL strongly urges the Committee to approve the *Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act* (UELMA), which will provide Connecticut with a technology-neutral, outcomes-based approach to ensuring that online state legal material deemed official will be preserved and made permanently available to the public in unaltered form.

I am AALL's current president and a constituent of Chairman Coleman. AALL is a nonprofit educational organization with over 5000 members nationwide. The Association represents more than 80 members in Connecticut who serve the information needs of the legal community and the public at academic, firm, state, court and county law libraries. AALL's mission is to promote and enhance the value of law libraries, to foster law librarianship and to provide leadership and advocacy in the field of legal information and information policy.

UELMA addresses the urgent problem, identified in AALL's 2007 *State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources*, that more and more states are eliminating their print legal resources in favor of online-only, without assuring trustworthiness and reliability. In a recent survey of legal materials at the state and municipal levels, AALL's Connecticut State Working Group found that no legal resources are being authenticated in the state. UELMA will ensure that online legal material is guaranteed the same level of trustworthiness traditionally provided by print publication.

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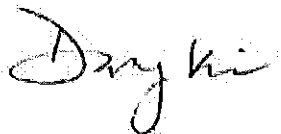
We commend the Connecticut General Assembly for its foresight into the need to address these critical issues. *Public Act 150 §28* mandated that the State Librarian, in conjunction with other key officials, establish standards for electronic authentication and preservation. We are very pleased that the Connecticut State Librarian's *Recommendations of the State Librarian for Establishing Standards and Guidelines for the Preservation and Authentication of Electronic Documents* includes a recommendation that "the State Librarian shall encourage the adoption of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act in Connecticut."

Importantly, Raised Bill No. 418 covers a range of key materials including the Constitution of the State of Connecticut; the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut; the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies; and the reported decisions of the Supreme Court, the Appellate Court and the Superior Court. UELMA will ensure that anyone -- whether a judge, legislator, lawyer or member of the public -- will be able to verify the trustworthiness of the state legal material available to them online.

UELMA is supported by the Uniform Law Commission (ULC) and the American Bar Association. Many other stakeholders -- including the U.S. Government Printing Office, the National Archives and Records Administration, the Society of American Archivists, the National Center for State Courts, and the Association of Reporters of Judicial Decisions -- were observers to the ULC drafting committee.

AALL strongly urges you to support Raised Bill No. 418, *An Act Adopting the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act and the Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act*. By adopting UELMA, Connecticut will establish itself as a leader among states understanding that official, electronic legal material must be authenticated, preserved and made permanently available to the public. Thank you very much for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Darcy Kirk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Darcy" being more prominent than the last name "Kirk".

Darcy Kirk  
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